REPORT OF THE RARE BOOK DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1934.

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Epstean Library

The most important addition to the Rare Book department, and a very valuable and welcome addition to the Columbia University as a whole, this year, was the collection on photography and photomechanical processes of reproduction, presented to the library by Mr. Edward A. Epstean.

Mr. Epstean has been active for many years in the field of photo-engraving, and, in building up his library has shown both a scholarly and a practical interest. To a nucleus of his own collecting, he has added three important and valuable libraries, that of Dr. Eder of Austria, of William Gamble of England, and a French library acquired through Gemuchian, booksellers, of Paris. Hofrat Dr. Joseph Maria Eder, the celebrated Austrian founder of the Graphische Lehr und Versuchstalt in Vienna, is the outstanding authority on photomechanical processes in the world. His library of 750 volumes included about 90 titles and five volumes of reprints by Dr. Eder himself. The English library of 800 volumes was collected by William Gamble, the eminent London authority and second only to Dr. Eder in his field.

The Epstean library will prove valuable both because of the comparative scarity of such collections and because of its completeness within the limits of the highly specialized field with which it deals. It contains the standard reference works in French, German, and English. Historically the collection is interesting and contains some of the earliest of the important titles in the history of photography. Although the general field is well represented, the Epstean library is particularly rich in the more specialized fields of photo-mechanical processes of reproduction, printing processes of reproduction, color and orthocromatic photography, and the chemistry of photography.

The library will be housed as a special collection in the Rare Book Department. Perhaps one word should be added to explain the attribution of a photography collection to a department that is essentially concerned with the arts of the book. Photomechanical processes of reproduction are the contribution of this age to the long line of methods of recording and of distributing what is recorded. It is entirely proper and fitting that this particular collection should be kept in the same general library classification that contains the treatises on the invention of printing and the story of its development as to centuries passed.

The books have been book-plated and shelved alphabetically. The listing of the library was begun immediately and is now completed. No classification was attempted, but each book was listed and all the volumes of pamphlets and reprints analyzed. There are now two complete alphabetical lists - one for the library and one for Mr. Epstean.

Memoranda

Bound volumes (not including periodicals)	812	
Bound periodicals	318	
Paper and pamphlets	772	
Unbound numbers of periodicals	168	(1 yr. allowed to a v.
Total	2070	

Number of titles (not including analytics) 1568

Eder library	750
Gamble	800
Gemuchian	520

Author presentation copies 66

No. of annuals and periodicals 486 (73 titles)

(All figures are approximate)

Seligman Library of Economics

Thirteen volumes of pamphlets (520 items) were transferred from the main library, broken up, bound, and added to the Seligman library.

The listing of the books still at Dr. Seligman's house was completed this June.

During the year Dr. Seligman has made many additions to the library, the most important of which were two very rare tracts by Thomas Milles.

Dale Library of Weights and Measures.

A special effort was made this spring to check the Dale collection with available bibliographies and sales catalogs to see that as far as possible the material is kept up to to date and the collection alive.

David Eugene Smith Mathematical Library

With the exception of the Orientalia and the modern mathematical texts, all the material in the collection is now listed. Since the last report the individual documents have been arranged in chronologic order, placed in folders, and stored in their new case. Most of them are represented in a card index compiled by Dr. Smith some time ago.

The Oriental material was added to this year, after Dr. Smith's return from Persia, by some ninety Arabic and Persian manuscripts. Two of these are remarkable mathematical manuscripts of the 14th century - one the algebra of Omar Khayyám, the other the astronomy of al-Khowârizmi. In this new group there are also some tables of Uglugh Beg, books on number mysticism and a number of Korans, prayer books and other religious texts. The Arabic and Persian material has been arranged by subject, the remainder of the Oriental material by form - rolls, leaf books, orahon books, etc.

At the present time Mr. Mendelsohn, of the Semitics department, is working on the deciphering of the twenty cuneiform tablets which the Smith Library possesses.

With Dr. Smith's aid, the unbound letters have been gone over, and the binding and mounting of these is to be the next piece of work.

The cataloging and classification of the main collection has gone on. This year some 250 titles, representing about 300 volumes, have been cataloged. With the 100 volumes finished last year, this represents most of the treatises on the history of mathematics and the biographies, individual and collective.

One of the Emergency Work Bureau workers assigned to this department had had experience in working for a publisher. She has been able, therefore, to do some work in indexing important sets of mathematics. She has indexed a ten-volume Italian biographical dictionary which is proving very useful and she is now compiling a general name index to the important Bullettino di bibliografia e di storia delle scienze matematiche e fisiche - a twenty -volume set.

There has been a good deal of reference work, including some by correspondence. The letters and portraits continue to be the most used material with the use of the collection of Euclids ranking second.

It is to be hoped that another year will find that more of the material which wants binding very badly will taken care of. It is also to be hoped that the collection may have the part-time assistance of a skilled clerical worker who can assist in such details as labeling, marking and mounting of material.

Plimpton Rooms

There have been no additions to the Plimpton collection. The Hamilton Fish material, housed in these rooms, is being edited by

Professor Allan Nevins, who works here regularly. Dr. Philip C. Jessup also keeps his material here. Mr. Philip Burnett, assistant to Mr. Robert Binkley, who is arranging the Dallas papers for the Carnegie endowment documentary history of the peace conference, uses one of these rooms in which to work and keep his material.

Staff

There have been no changes in the regular staff of the Rare Book Department. Miss Janet Bogardus, librarian of the Seligman Library, has devoted much of her time this past year to the Epstean collection and to general assistance in the Rare Book Department. Miss Bertha Frick has worked faithfully and efficiently as librarian of the Smith Library. Mr. Sidney Kramer, assistant to the Curator, secured his degree from the Columbia School of Library Service, where he made a very creditable record. In the fall, we hope that he will become a full-time professional assistant in the Rare Book Department.

Besides the regular staff mention should be made of Miss Ethel Carlisle who listed the Epstean collection with the assistance of Miss Anna Margaret Vaneer. Both Miss Carlisle and Miss Vaneer were very helpful and willing assistants in the Rare Book Department when they were needed. Mr. Charles Adams, of the Columbia bindery, while not a member of the Rare Book Department, worked with the Curator on special binding problems. We have had the help from time to time of C. W. A., E. W. B., and voluntary assistants, amoung them, Mr. DeYoung, Miss Honey, Miss Devany, and Miss Longmans.

Acquistions

Some of the more important acquistions to the department this year were:

Ruskin. Letters to young girls. In a Doves Press binding, by Cobden-Sanderson, 1915. Bought at the auction of Mrs. Rockefeller McCormick's library on Feb. 23, 1934.

A number of type specimens and type manuals, which were duplicates in the library of the American typefounders company.

Some private press books and type manuals bought at the book auction of the American Imstitute of Graphic Arts.

A collection of books from the private reference library of Mr. Joseph Blumenthal, of the Spiral press.

Gifts

The department has received a number of gifts this year, the most important of which are:

A collection of Gutenberg Museum slides presented to the library on the occasion of Dr. Aloys Ruppel's visit to this university last year.

Six articles on printing history by Douglas McMurtrie, presented by the author.

French and English photoengraving books, presentes by Mr. Epstean (in addition to his library on photography)

Bibliothèque de M^me^ Hoff", presented by M^me^ Hoff and deposited in a selected number of libraries throughout the country.

An incomplete run of "Bradley: his book", given by Henry L. Bullen.

Proofs of the Spiral press type, donated by Mr. Joseph Blumenthal.

Binding dummy, with various types of sewing, presented by Mr. Archer.

Mr. C. C. Kalbfleisch continued his donations of well-selected books for this department.

Cataloging and transfers.

The most outstanding acquistion in the way of transfers from other parts of the library was the collection of 139 books on bookbinding transferred from the Avery library. These form a valuable

unit in our book arts and industries material and were put to an immediate and continual use by the students in the course in book-binding given by Dr. Lehmann-Haupt. The collection of books on book-plates, the nucleus of which was formed by transfers from Avery, has become a definite part of our collection, and those transferred have been repaired and rebound. The 411's were transferred from the main library in a block and made part of our collection on the history of writing. The books on linguistics, phonetics, and philology were returned to the library, and it is suggested that these should be re-cataloged, or if left in 411, the class should be renamed. All of the 018's and 019's brought from the main library to form the beginning of our collection have now been recataloged and reclassified, except those which still represent a classification problem. All of the 016's, which were useful to our library, have been recataloged and reclassed, and the remainder sent back to the general collection. We have now accomplished our aim of presenting in our classification scheme a solid set of Dewey numbers - 017, 018, 019. These numbers are no longer represented in the main collection.

During the year, the card catalog was revised. 982 new cards were made and 1917 subject headings changed. As a result we have evolved our own list of standard subject headings, which we consider particularly applicable to our highly specialized collection.

Care and Repair. Binding.

Mr. Charles Adams has made an interesting experiment in pamphlet binding this year, and has done much toward solving a difficult problem - that of securing individual bindings, carefully done, at a reasonable cost.

150 pamphlets, representative of a distinct and large group at Columbia, were chosen from the Seligman Library of Economics. They were 17th and 18th century tracts, many of the French Revolution, and deserved a more special and distinctive treatment than is possible by quantity production. The pamphlets were all handsewn by Mr. Adams, and the inside margins kept intact. He designed the styles of binding for each volume with consideration as to the material being bound, selecting the end-papers to accord, and with an effort to perserve the spirit of the book. He printed the labels on his own hand -press.

Mr. Adams's experiment represents the most conspicuous progressive step in binding in the course of the last year, and it seems reasonable to hope that the Columbia bindery and the commercial binders who do our pamphlet work will be able to profit by his ideas worked out so successfully in his sample bindings. For all other types of binding the Curator is very well satisfied with the work done for the department.

The outstanding exhibit sponsored by the Rare Book Department this year was that of Islamic art held in Avery Hall, January 8 - February 3. There were on display almost 200 items from the Smith Library and Dr. Smith's home. It was viewed by about one thousand persons. Arranging, listing, labeling, and displaying this material was taken care of by Miss Frick.

A tea and exhibition was given in the Rare Book Department on April 6th, in order that the friends of the library might view the Epstean Library of Photography and Photomechanical processes recently presented to the University. An exhibit of 14 cases of the more interesting material was set up, which presented the history of photography from the daguerreotype

to the present. Some nice daguerreotypes and early photographs were borrowed from the Chandler Museum for the exhibit. About 200 guests came.

An exhibition of bookbinding done at Columbia was held in the Avery Library under the direction of Mr. Adams. The exhibit represented all types of binding, with particular emphasis on economic and attractive pamphlet bindings. Our style book of sample bindings was on display, with examples of each style taken from the Rare Book Department.

Fifty book jackets designed by Georg Salter, a modern German book designer, were brought here from Germany, through the efforts of Dr. Lehmann-Haupt, and exhibited in November.

Book Study Club

The third year of the Book Study Club has been a rather successful one. In November the club met at the home of Dr. David Eugene Smith, who exhibited some of the most interesting pieces of his Orientalia collection, and told of his experience in gathering them. At the February meeting, the program was provided by the members of the club, several of whom talked on the particular phase of bookmaking or book-collecting that most interested them. Perhaps the most interesting meeting was in April when Miss Katerine Edwards and Mr. Gerhard Gerlach, masterbinders of Leipzig and former students of Professor Wiemuller of the State Academy of Graphic Arts of Leipzig, showed examples of their modern bookbinding in leather with hand tooling in blind and gold.

Publications

Fifty Books About Bookmaking, an annotated bibliography of book arts and industries compiled by Dr. Lehmann-Haupt, and which was discussed in last year's report, has made a place for itself and is now in its second printing.

Dr. Lehmann-Haupt has continued his column of Books about Bookmaking in the monthly bookmaking department of the Publishers' Weekly.

As a result of an address by Dr. Lehmann-Haupt at the Conference of Eastern College Librarians, in November 1932, arrangements have been made with the Southworth press for the publication of a volume on the rebinding of old books, and the first draft of the manuscript is completed.

Dr. Lehmann-Haupt is also to edit, within subsequent numbers of the Dolphin, a new annual journal on the making of books, a succession of articles, which are to deal with the history of the printed book.

Courses

A one-point spring-term course in Bookbinding, given by Dr. Lehmann-Haupt in the Rare Book Department, has been added to the Library School curriculum. The usual courses, The History of bookmaking, and Modern bookmaking, LS 135 and 136, have been conducted by Dr. Lehmann-Haupt.

Instructors in other departments in the University, have brought their classes to the Rare Book Department for occasional lectures.

Outside Activities

One of the most interesting outside connections of the Curator was his work with the Committee of The Fifty Books of the Year. This was his second year as chairman of the committee, and he worked in cooperation with Mr. Carl P. Rollins of the Yale University Press, Mr. William Kittredge, of the Lakeside Press, Chicago, and Mr. Joseph Blumenthal of the Spiral Press, New York.

The Rare Book Department is looking forward to occupying its new quarters in the old building next year. Space for expansion is immediately necessary. The Curator and his staff are hopeful of a well-organized department, with much more space for books and a convenient arrangement of staff offices, so that the library may be cared for adequately and administered efficiently.

Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt

Curator of the Rare Book Department

DAVID EUGENE SMITH
MATHEMATICAL LIBRARY

Annual Report

May 23, 1934

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cataloged. With the 100 volumes finished last year, this represents most of the treatises on the history of mathematics and the biographies, individual and collective. To separate these it was necessary to read through the author lists, picking out by title those that appeared to belong to these two groups. Undoubtedly some were missed in this way, but they will be picked up later. Since many of these are in pamphlet form, it was necessary to have them bound. At present, there are thirty-seven volumes at the bindery, twenty-three of them being collections of pamphlets.

One of the E. W. B. workers assigned to this department had had experience in working for a publisher. She has been able, therefore, to do some work in indexing important sets. She has indexed a ten-volume Italian biographical dictionary which is proving very useful. Perhaps fifty per cent. of the books in the collection are written by Italian authors, so the value of this index can readily be seen. She is now compiling a general name index to the important Bullettino di bibliografia e di storia delle scienze matematiche e fisiche - a twenty-volume set.

One of the high lights of the year's work was the exhibit of Islamic art held in Avery Hall, January 8 - February 3. There were on display almost 200 items from the Smith Library and Dr. Smith's home. It was viewed by about one thousand persons. Arranging, listing, labeling and displaying of this material was the responsibility of this Library.

There has been a good deal of reference work, including some by correspondence. The letters and portraits continue to be the most used material with the use of the collection of Euclids ranking second. This is a very extensive collection, dating from the 15th century. Because

of this it seems advisable to proceed to their cataloging as soon as possible.

It is to be hoped that another year will find that more of the material which wants binding very badly will be taken care of. It is also to be hoped that the collection may have the part-time assistance of a skilled clerical worker who can assist in such details as labeling, marking and mounting of material.

Librarian
David Eugene Smith
Mathematical Library